

Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group













Soccer in Barcelona & Madrid

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
- DAY 2 ARRIVE BARCELONA AREA (4 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 BARCELONA
- DAY 4 FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL MATCH
- DAY 5 BARCELONA & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 6 BARCELONA - ZARAGOZA - MADRID AREA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 7 MADRID & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 8 MADRID & FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 9 DEPARTURE FROM MADRID



ITINERARY

The most successful side of the past decade, the Spanish National Team (La Roja), has won two European Championships and a World Cup. Spain also boasts the most dominant club teams in Europe headed by FC Barcelona and Real Madrid. The two sides form the most famous rivalry in the world. The derby is referred to as "El Clasico" and is underlined with decades of political and cultural tensions. The Spanish way of soccer is renowned for its "total football" approach.

 Educational Tour/Visit	 Cultural Experience	 Festival/Performance/Workshop	Tour Services
 Recreational Activity	 LEAP Enrichment	 Match/Training Session	    






DAY 1

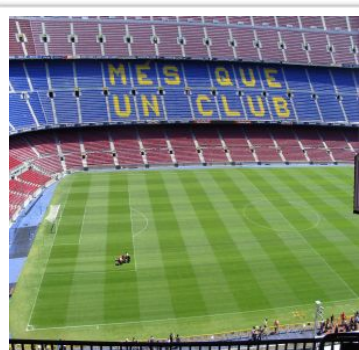
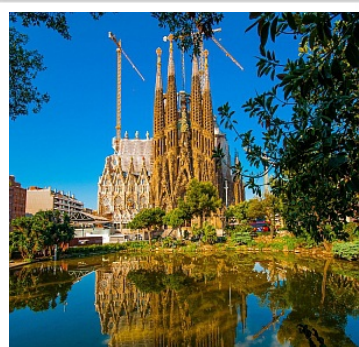
-  Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from North America.
-  * Please note that the final itinerary may be slightly different from this program. The final itinerary will be determined based on the size of the group, any adjustments that are required (such as adding additional matches), and the final schedule of the matches. (If additional matches are required, then some sightseeing content will be replaced by the additional matches needed)

DAY 2

-  Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure. We will be met at the airport by our private bus and transfer to our hotel. We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next seven days.
-  Barcelona is one of the hearts of Spanish football and home to both FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol. At least twice a year, Barcelona and Espanyol contest the Derbi barceloní, one of football's oldest and most historically significant rivalries. Espanyol and Barcelona battle at least twice a year, once at the famed Camp Nou and once, only fifteen minutes away, at Espanyol's RCDE Stadium.
-  Our base for the first four nights will be in the Barcelona area (stretching from the Costa Brava to the Costa Dorado), where breakfast and dinner will be included at the hotel each day.
-  We begin with a welcome meeting and orientation. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore the area around the hotel.
-  **TRAINING SESSION**
We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day).
-  Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 3

-  This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
-  **TRAINING SESSION**
We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day).
-  We will travel into central Barcelona.



DAY 3



BARCELONA CITY TOUR

Take an introductory City Tour of Barcelona, which will highlight many of the top sights and landmarks. Our tour will be both on our private bus and on foot. Highlights may include Las Ramblas, the Gothic Quarter, La Sagrada Familia, Montjuic, and the Quadrat d'Or.



BASILICA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

Visit La Sagrada Familia, the symbol of Barcelona and the vision of Antoni Gaudí, whom from 1912 forward made the design of this soaring basilica his life's work. If it is not the grandest church in all of Spain, it is certainly the grandest constructed within living memory. The grand church of the Holy Family, based on stories from the New Testament, is a strange and wonderful building that represents the intersection of the imaginative style of Modernisme with the medieval faith that drove construction of the great Gothic cathedrals.



PARC GÜELL

Spend time in Parc Güell, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, 'Works of Antoni Gaudí'. Designed primarily by Gaudí, particularly interesting areas of the park include a mosaic pagoda, a lizard fountain spitting water, an undulating bench decorated with ceramic fragments, and an array of unique Doric columns, which are hollow and serve as part of Gaudí's drainage system.



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 4



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to our match and to a professional match.



FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match).



ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH

We will attend a professional soccer match featuring teams from the top leagues. Seeing the top talent in the world in person would itself be an unforgettable experience, but add the passionate crowds singing, cheering and chanting and you will enter an atmosphere that can only be understood through personal experience. (Excel Programs will secure tickets for the group after time of booking and upon release of the official schedule. Due to scheduling your final itinerary may need to be adjusted to accommodate attending a match).



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 5



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to Camp Nou and to our match.



CAMP NOU STADIUM TOUR

Take a visit to Camp Nou, the home ground for Barcelona's biggest and most popular team, and one of Europe's greatest footballing 'cathedrals'. FC Barcelona are the only major football club in the world that doesn't sell advertising space on its strip, and this is because the club does not want to spoil the aesthetics of its famous red and blue jersey. Camp Nou is the biggest stadium in Europe with a capacity of 99,000 people, and it also has shops and a museum of the club's history.



SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match).



DAY 5



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 6



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel from the Barcelona area to the Madrid area.

The capital of Aragon, Zaragoza is a walled city filled with Roman ruins, a Moorish architecture, and a popular pilgrimage cathedral. This picturesque ancient city lies along the Ebro river, and its lively culture charms visitors who stop to wander and explore.



ZARAGOZA CITY TOUR

We will enjoy a short City Tour on our private bus. During our tour we will learn about and view the Palacio de la Aljafería, the Catedral de la Seo, La Lonja, the impressive Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, and the Arco de Dean. We will also a short period of free time to explore and get some lunch.



We continue to the Madrid area.

Spain's capital city of Madrid lies at the heart of the country. Despite its modern and cosmopolitan culture, the city has preserved its traditional architecture and charm. This is a city of great monuments and great art, all against the backdrop of a rich culture and an exciting nightlife.



Our base for the final three nights will be in the greater Madrid area, where breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel.



TRAINING SESSION

We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day).



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 7



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



MADRID CITY TOUR

Take an introductory City Tour of Madrid to learn about and view some of Madrid's top landmarks and attractions using our private bus and on foot. Highlights will include The Prado, the Plaza de Cibeles, the Puerta de Alcalá, the Gran Vía, Plaza de España, Palacio Real, and the Puerto del Sol.



PALACIO REAL

Visit the Palacio Real, a huge palace begun in 1738 on the site of the Madrid Alcázar, which burned to the ground in 1734. Our tour will take us through some of the palace's 2,000 rooms that the "enlightened despot" Charles III called home. Although the palace is no longer home to the royal family, it is still full of art treasures and antiques, including Tiepolo ceilings and paintings by Goya. Highlights of our visit include the Reception Room and State Apartments; the Throne Room; the Banquet Room, where receptions for heads of state are still held; and the Royal Chapel.



THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match).



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.



DAY 8



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will transfer to the Bernabeu Stadium and then to our final match.



REAL MADRID STADIUM TOUR

Tour of the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home of the Real Madrid football club. Our tour will include a visit to the Trophy Room, a walk on the field, a visit to the Presidential Balcony, the Player's Benches, Coaching Area and Dressing Room, as well as the Press Room. (The tour may be modified in the event of a match day).



Take some time to explore or shop at your leisure.



FOURTH FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match).



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 9



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.

What is Included:

- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in a three star hotel in twin or triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Full breakfast daily in the hotel
- Lunch or dinner daily (determined by the final sporting arrangements)
- A full-time Excel Sports programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- The expertise and perspective of local guides during your tour (where required)
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- All sporting arrangements, including matches, training sessions or clinics (as per the itinerary)
- One pro soccer match ticket (subject to travel dates and schedule)
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring, except in capital city, where public transport will be used (cost not included) for group sightseeing
- Three free college credits for all high school students (this is optional for each participant and post trip course work is required)
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to \$7,500) and \$50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to \$1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Manchester United Raffle fundraiser
- One free place in a single room throughout the program
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of \$50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports as Coaches and Chaperones

This Does Not Include:

- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Single rooms for adults (will be available at a supplement of \$50 per night)
- Third daily meal or personal beverages with meals
- Laundry services on tour
- Public transport pass in capital or major cities
- Visas (if required)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Any costs for the hire of, or transport of, equipment or gear
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$149

Manchester United GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING

Win a four-day trip for two and attend the final Manchester United home game at Old Trafford Stadium



The Winner Will Receive:

- Two round trip flights to Manchester
- Two nights at the 3-Star Willowbank Hotel in Manchester
- Two tickets to see Manchester United's final season home game at Old Trafford



"The Manchester trip was an awesome experience that I will never forget. It's been a dream of mine to see a Premier League game so this trip helped that wish come true for me. The atmosphere at the game was awesome and I got to see some great goals from Manchester United. I was also impressed with how accommodating Excel International Sports was while arranging extra days and flights for the trip. Overall, I am so grateful that I got this opportunity to go to Manchester and fulfill one of my dreams!"

Mike Smith, Grand Prize Raffle Winner

THE ULTIMATE FUNDRAISER

WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs is pleased to offer your individual participants or your team with the ultimate fundraiser. Your participants will be able to sell raffle tickets to people in their community or to other friends and family members. The money they raise will be theirs to apply towards the cost of their sports tour.

We will provide a PDF of the raffle tickets. The participants will print the tickets at home, and then they will proceed to sell the tickets for \$10 each. WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs will provide the grand prize and hold a drawing on the 1st of March each year in order to choose a winner.

"This raffle fundraiser is sending me to Spain to play soccer. When my parents told me I had to pay for the trip myself I was determined I could do it and with the help of this raffle I was able to pay for the entire trip. Thank you so much!"
Sydney Larkin, St. Mary's College Women's Soccer (MD)



Don't Just Take Our Word for it. Here is What Our Participants Had to Say:



"Our trip was spectacular from start to finish. The opportunity to train, play, and experience Barcelona is something that will not soon be forgotten. The cultural influences we encountered will be lasting and the memories will last a lifetime"

Mark Biagi, Head Coach, Arizona Boys ODP, Spain



"The trip was amazing and so well organized. Your folks on the ground that led the groups were excellent and so impressive. The schedule was full of wonderful events and the boys had an awesome time. Our family loved the trip and we are all so glad to have had the opportunity to go. Thank you so much for everything you do to make these trips happen. All of your hard work and organization really pays off on the user end when the trip goes as great as this one!"

Gabi Koeppel, Chaperone, MSYSA ODP, Spain



"Our tour director, Christina was exceptional and made the trip even more memorable. Not only did I get to see the beauty of Spain and gain international experience but I grew as a soccer player and enjoyed seeing a European style of play. Thank you WorldStrides Excel for a fantastic trip!"

Bennet Olsen-Zwick, Player, Arizona ODP, Spain



"Simply outstanding. The entire experience. From pre-trip planning, WorldStrides Excel did a fantastic job covering all the details, to the trip itself – was truly exceptional. Thanks again for the opportunity to take part in this awesome trip!"

Rich Ruiz, Board Member, MSYSA ODP, Spain